



Everly Macario

Everly Macario is a mother of two with a doctorate in public health, focused on the study of health and social behavior.

In April 2004, Everly's son Simon, who was completely healthy until 1 ½ years of age, started to get sick on and off, exhibiting typical age-related health problems such as dehydration, ear and throat infections, asthma and allergy symptoms. After a throat infection in early April, doctors treated Simon so that he could breathe better. On April 16, Simon woke up shrieking and had a fever. Everly's husband took Simon to the emergency room and Simon was released soon after. That afternoon, Everly called 911 because Simon's breathing was very labored and he was lethargic. Simon was admitted to the Pediatric ICU and passed the next day on April 17.

During his time in the hospital, doctors were unsure of the source of his infection and it was not until months after his death that it was confirmed to be Community-Associated MRSA (methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*). Everly is now committed to helping others understand what MRSA is and how to help prevent its spread.

Everly's nicknames for her children, Elena and Simon, were "luna" (moon) and "sol" (sun), respectively. She says, "They were, indeed, our universe. I am still trying to process the fact that my sun will not rise tomorrow."

